

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4096

INFO USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 24087

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, FR

SUBJECT: CHARLES MALO, NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO
VIETNAM

1. CHARLES MALO, BORN ON 22/5/25 IN ALGIERS, BEGAN HIS CAREER IN 1947 AS A SECRETARY FOR THE FAR EAST AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE WAS THIRD SECRETARY IN TIENTSIN FROM 1948 TO 1951, AFTER WHICH HE RECEIVED THE MEDAL OF HONOR FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE WAS NEXT NAMED SECOND SECRETARY IN CANBERRA (1953-1956) AND IN TOKYO (1957-1959) BEFORE RETURNING TO THE OFFICE OF ASIA/OCEANIC AFFAIRS, WHERE HE REMAINED FROM 1960 TO 1964. MALO WAS APPOINTED SECOND COUNSELLOR IN CANBERRA, BUT LEFT SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL AT POST TO TAKE UP THE SAME POSITION IN PHNOM-PENH (1964-1966). HE WAS BACK AT ASIA/OCEANIC AFFAIRS UNTIL 1970, ASSUMING THE TITLE OF UNDER DIRECTOR IN 1968. FROM 1970 TO THE PRESENT HE HAS BEEN FIRST COUNSELLOR IN PEKING. MALO SPEAKS CHINESE AND ENGLISH.

2. IN PHNOM-PENH MALO TOOK IN PRINCE SIHANOUK'S SON, AT THE REQUEST OF THE PRINCE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF EDUCATING HIM. THE BOY WAS WITH THE MALOS FOR ONE AND ONE-HALF YEARS, WHICH GAVE MALO EASY ACCESS TO SIHANOUK. MALO ALLEGEDLY "NEVER ABUSED THIS POSITION."

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3. MALO'S WIFE MARGUERITE IS AN INTELLIGENT LADY WHO HAS WORKED IN THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS SECTION AT THE QUAI. BOTH THE MALOS ARE REPUTEDLY PRO-AMERICAN, AND ONE AMERICAN CONTACT HAS REPORTED THAT HE HELPED A NUMBER OF AMERICANS IN CHINA AFTER THE COMMUNIST TAKE-OVER. HE HAS THE REPUTATION OF BEING RETIRING, WELL-INFORMED AND ACCURATE. OUR QUAI CONTACTS SAY HE WOULD BE WORTH SEEING WHEN HE IS IN HONG KONG OR VIENTIANE FOR A BREATH OF FRESH AIR.

4. USLO PEKING MAY WISH TO COMMENT.
GAMMON

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